

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/660,383

Examiner

Thor S. Campbell

Applicant(s)

HASEGAWA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *papers filed 11/12/04*
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-72, 74-83*
3. ☒ The drawings filed on *9/11/03* are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. *09/88807*
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

THOR CAMPBELL
PATENT EXAMINER

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on November 12, 2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of any patent granted on application number 09/808807 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-72, 74-83 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: whereas US patent 6371907 is disqualified as prior art, the prior art does not disclose endoscope system including an elongate, flexible insertion portion that has a curving portion capable of curving and that can be inserted into a cavity; a drum portion connected to the proximal end of said insertion portion, said drum portion having a rotatable drum body and a drum fulcrum by which said drum body is rotatably held, said drum body having a cylindrical portion and side portions, said side portions configured to block openings in both sides of said cylindrical portion, said cylindrical portion containing a through hole in which the proximal end of said insertion portion is passed therethrough; an illumination optical system provided in a tip portion of said insertion portion and configured to emit illumination light from a light source device contained within said drum body; an imaging optical system provided in said tip portion of said insertion portion and configured to provide images of an object illuminated by said illumination optical system; a signal processing device, contained within said drum body, configured to perform signal processing functions on images from said imaging optical system and to generate a video signal; manipulation wires that are inserted in an axial direction of said

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insertion portion and that make said curving portion curve by moving in the axial direction; a drive motor that is provided on at least one of said cylindrical portion and side portions of said drum body, said drive motor making said curving portion curve by moving said manipulation wires; a fixing member provided in said drum body, by which the position of said drive motor is fixed with respect to the position of the proximal end of said insertion portion, said fixing member being fixed to at least one of said cylindrical portion and said side portion of said drum body; a signal cable which is extended from the inside to the outside through said drum body and said drum fulcrum; and curving manipulation means for performing curving manipulation of said curving portion by controlling drive motion of said drive motor, said curving manipulation means being connected to an end of said signal cable which extends from said drum portion and an endoscope stowage case in which the drum is stowed.

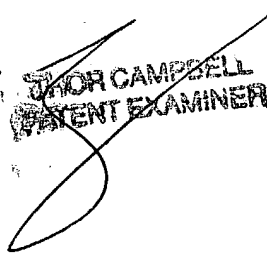
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thor S. Campbell whose telephone number is 571-272-4776. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 5:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TSC


JOHN CAMPBELL
PATENT EXAMINER